



BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

18 July 2005

Week of 18 July 2005


SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) ***Recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Veterans Administration on July 21, 1930*** (H.Res. 361). 


This resolution has no budget implications.

- 2) ***Calling for Free and Fair Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan*** (H.Res. 326). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

- 3) ***Recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the Workers' Strikes in Poland in 1980 That Led to the Establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union*** (H. Res. 328). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

- 4) ***Acknowledging African Descendants of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in all of the Americas With an Emphasis on Descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, Recognizing the Injustices Suffered By These African Descendants, and Recommending That the United States and the International Community Work to Improve the Situation of Afro-Descendant Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean*** (H. Con. Res. 175). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

- 5) ***Commending the Continuing Improvement in Relations Between the United States and the Republic of India.*** 

This resolution has no budget implications.

- 6) ***Permitting the Use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a Ceremony to Honor Constantino Brumidi on the 200th Anniversary of His Birth*** (H. Con. Res. 202). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: ***Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007*** (H.R. 2601). 

Committee: International Relations

Summary: This bill authorizes \$10.8 billion in 2006 and \$10 billion in 2007, subject to appropriations, for the Department of State, international broadcasting activities, international assistance

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

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programs, and related agencies. The bill also authorizes such sums as may be necessary for contributions to international peacekeeping, public diplomacy, personnel, and other programs over the 2006-10 period, which it is estimated will amount to \$1.9 billion over 5 years.

Cost: The bill increases direct spending by a net of \$103 million over the 5-year period covered by the budget resolution. The direct spending comes about as follows. Currently, discretionary budget authority [BA] is appropriated for the purposes of the "Administration of Foreign Affairs," and is deposited into a number of accounts used for various functions of the State Department overseas. Any BA remaining unobligated after 5 years may be transferred to a "Buying-Power Maintenance Account," which disburses this unobligated budget authority to various State Department accounts to preserve buying power that may be subject to fluctuating exchange rates. The unobligated budget authority may only be transferred to an account, however, if the transfer is provided for in advance in an appropriations act. This bill removes that requirement, thereby causing such transfers to be direct spending. It also provides for the asset sale of certain naval vessels, equaling \$32 million over the 2006-07 period. Receipts from asset sale are considered to be offsets against direct spending, but the amount anticipated from these sales is insufficient to fully offset the bill's increase in direct spending.

Budget Act: The direct spending in this bill, described above, will cause the Committee on International Relations to breach its allocation of budget authority. This will put the bill in violation of the budget resolution, and hence will cause it to be subject to a point of order.

To prevent the violation, it would be necessary to remove the provision causing the violation *before* the measure is taken up for floor consideration. (The International Affairs Committee has agreed to do so, but the appropriate mechanism remains to be decided upon.) This could be accomplished through a rule that deletes the offending provision, and makes the modified bill in order as original text. Under the terms of the Budget Act, doing so will bring the bill back into compliance with the budget resolution, and the bill would no longer breach the budget resolution. The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget has requested that the Rules Committee include such language in the rule.

Bill: ***National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005*** 
(H.R. 3070).


Committee: Science

Summary: This bill authorizes spending for the various responsibilities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. These include funding for human space flight, aeronautics, and science programs. Other programs and responsibilities funded by the bill include aeronautics, space science, earth science, Integrated Financial Management, and the Independent Technical Authority. The bill ends the Space Shuttle program at the end of 2010. The measure indicates the goals of returning humans to the moon by 2020, producing a new manned vehicle by 2010, and traveling to Mars.

Cost: The measure authorizes the appropriation of \$16.47 billion for fiscal year 2006.

Budget Act: No estimate has been prepared for this measure but it is not expected to include any new direct spending, and is not expected to violate the Congressional Budget Act.

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Bill: ***USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005*** 
(H.R. 3199).

Committee: Judiciary; Intelligence

Summary: This bill permanently authorizes certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, many of which will otherwise expire on 31 December 2005. These laws generally expand the powers of Federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to investigate and prosecute terrorist acts. The bill also would make several other changes to the laws relating to investigations of potential terrorist activity.

Cost: Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 3199 could be subject to civil and criminal fines, the Federal Government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Collections of civil fines are recorded in the budget as revenue. Criminal fines are recorded as revenue, then deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent without further appropriation. Any additional revenue and direct spending, however, is not expected to be significant because of the relatively small number of cases affected. In general, fines – because estimating the amounts likely to be collected is inherently speculative – are not scored for purposes of enforcing the budget resolution.

Budget Act: The bill does not violate any provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

Prepared by **The Committee on the Budget**